

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 19, 2003

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 7, 2003

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 30

Introduced by Assembly Members Liu, Chan, Chu, Nakano, and Yee

(Principal coauthor: Senator Vasconcellos)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Berg, Bermudez, Canciamilla, Chavez, Cohn, Corbett, Correa, Diaz, Dutra, Dymally, Firebaugh, Frommer, Goldberg, Hancock, Jerome Horton, Jackson, Kehoe, Koretz, Laird, Leno, Levine, Lieber, Longville, Lowenthal, Matthews, Montanez, Mullin, Nation, Negrete McLeod, Nunez, Oropeza, Parra, Pavley, Reyes, Ridley-Thomas, Salinas, Simitian, Steinberg, Vargas, and Wolk) Wolk, Aghazarian, Bates, Benoit, Calderon, Cogdill, Cox, Daucher, Dutton, Harman, Shirley Horton, Houston, La Malfa, Maddox, Maldonado, Maze, McCarthy, Nakanishi, Pacheco, Richman, Runner, Samuelian, Spitzer, Strickland, Wesson, and Wiggins)

(Coauthors: Senators Alpert and Bowen)

April 10, 2003

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 30—Relative to Japanese American World War II Internment.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 30, as amended, Liu. Japanese American World War II Internment.

This measure would, among other things, condemn the statements made by Congressman Howard Coble regarding the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, urge him to apologize, and encourage him to resign from the chairmanship of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security of the Judiciary Committee of the United States House of Representatives.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive
2 Order 9066, which ordered the incarceration of more than 120,000
3 American citizens of Japanese ancestry and resident aliens in the
4 internment camps during World War II; and

5 WHEREAS, The Commission on Wartime Relocation and
6 Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) was established by Congress
7 and signed into Public Law 96-317 by President Jimmy Carter on
8 July 31, 1980; and

9 WHEREAS, The CWRIC was established to review and
10 analyze the official government contention, historically accepted,
11 that the exclusion, forced removal, and detention of Americans of
12 Japanese ancestry were justified by military necessity; and

13 WHEREAS, Between July and December 1981, the CWRIC
14 held 20 days of hearings and took testimony from more than 750
15 witnesses; and

16 WHEREAS, The CWRIC declared in its summary that
17 “Executive Order 9066 was not justified by military necessity, and
18 the decisions that followed from it-exclusion, detention, the
19 ending of detention and the ending of exclusion-were not founded
20 upon military considerations. The broad historical causes that
21 shaped these decisions were race prejudice, war hysteria, and a
22 failure of political leadership”; and

23 WHEREAS, In response to this finding, Congress adopted the
24 Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (P.L. 100-383), which was signed into
25 law by President Ronald Reagan; and

26 WHEREAS, The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 states that
27 Congress, on behalf of the nation, apologizes to Americans of
28 Japanese ancestry for their wrongful incarceration; and

29 WHEREAS, President George Bush wrote in his 1990 letter of
30 apology to each Japanese American, “A monetary sum and words
31 alone cannot restore lost years or erase painful memories; neither
32 can they fully convey our Nation’s resolve to rectify injustice and



1 to uphold the rights of individuals. We can never fully right the
2 wrongs of the past. But we can take a clear stand for justice and
3 recognize that serious injustices were done to Japanese Americans
4 during World War II”; and

5 WHEREAS, Representative Howard Coble of North Carolina,
6 who chairs the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland
7 Security of the Judiciary Committee of the United States House of
8 Representatives, had made comments on a radio call-in program
9 indicating that the internment of Japanese Americans was in their
10 best interests; and

11 WHEREAS, Congressman Coble, stated, “We were at war,”
12 and called Japanese Americans “an endangered species.” He
13 added that, “For many of these Japanese Americans, it wasn’t safe
14 for them to be on the street”; and

15 WHEREAS, Congressman Coble said some Japanese
16 Americans “probably were intent on doing harm to us ... just as
17 some of these Arab Americans are probably intent on doing harm
18 to us”; and

19 WHEREAS, Congressman Coble’s comments are insulting,
20 inflammatory, and inconsistent with the findings of the CWRIC,
21 inconsistent with the federal Civil Liberties Act of 1988, and
22 inconsistent with the letter of apology issued by President George
23 Bush; now, therefore, be it

24 *Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California,*
25 *jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California hereby
26 condemns the statements made by Congressman Howard Coble as
27 insulting, inflammatory, inaccurate, and inconsistent with the
28 findings of the CWRIC, inconsistent with the letter of apology
29 issued by President George Bush, and inconsistent with the laws
30 passed by Congress; and be it further

31 *Resolved,* That the Legislature of the State of California urges
32 Congressman Coble to apologize for his inaccurate statements
33 regarding the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World
34 War II; and be it further

35 *Resolved,* That the Legislature of the State of California
36 encourages Congressman Coble to submit his resignation as
37 Chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and
38 Homeland Security of the Judiciary Committee of the United
39 States House of Representatives; and be it further



1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly provide a copy
2 of this resolution to Congressman Coble and to every other
3 member of the United States Congress and to the President of the
4 United States; and be it further

5 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly provide a copy
6 of this resolution to each member of the State Legislature of North
7 Carolina and to the Governor of North Carolina to encourage them
8 to take actions similar to those described in this resolution.

